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UACE Geography paper 3: Population of Uganda

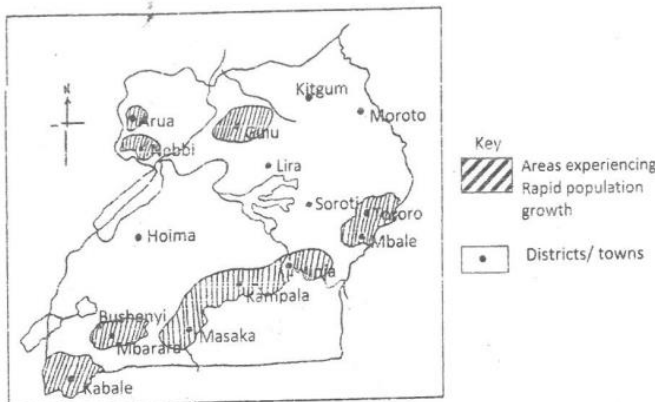
1. Examine the causes and effects of rapid population growth in Uganda (25marks)
Or
2. Assess the impact of a high population growth rate on the development of Uganda (25marks)

Candidates are expected to define population growth rate

Population growth rate is the increase in the number of people in an area over a period of time.

Candidates are expected to show areas experiencing rapid population growth in Uganda

A SKETCH MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING AREAS EXPERIENCING RAPID POPULATION GROWTH



Candidates are expected to come up with the reasons for rapid population growth in Uganda as

- Higher number of births over deaths due to improved medical facilities, reduced infant mortality rates especially with the immunization of diseases like measles, tetanus, polio and others has led to rapid population growth rates in Kampala, Mbale, Kisoro, Mbarara, Jinja etc.
- Polygamy tendencies have also contributed to rapid population growth in Kampala, Kabale, Mbale etc.
- Early marriages have contributed to rapid population growth in that 44% of women in Kampala, Kabale and Kisoro marry at an age between 16-22 years. They therefore have long reproductive period in which they may bear children.

- Some religions e.g. Catholicism and Islam encourages family development and is opposed to birth control, sterilisation and abortion. Islam permits marriage of more than one wife and is therefore characterised by rapid birth rates. Areas occupied by Muslims and Catholics like Iganga, Jinja, Mbaale and Kampala experience rapid population growth rates.
- Rapid population growth rates have also been due to low levels of education. Research has shown that the more people attain education, the less they give birth and vice versa. This explains why families in rural areas of Kigezi, Mbale, Butaleja, Bukedea etc where there is less education facilities are characterised by rapid population growth rates.
- Limited family planning education and facilities especially in the rural areas of Masaka, Luwero, Mbale, Kisoro is another cause of rapid population rates. Few people carry out family planning practices while others carry out ineffective methods like the coitus interruptus.
- Low levels of income is responsible for the rapid population growth rates in that poor people tend to have limited ambitions and more free time. They tend to give more births from leisure activities. This is why rapid population growth rates generally more in rural areas like Bunghokho county in Mbale where many people are generally poor. On the contrary, middle class people and rich especially in urban areas have great aspiration and are usually motivated by social pressure to amass more wealth and have less free time
- Reduced infant mortality from 160 per 1000 to 115 per 1000 have led to rapid population growth rates in Kampala, Mbale, Mbarara, Masaka and Kabale has led to high rate of population growth.
- High fertility rates of women up to 7 children in Kabale, Mbale, Busoga has led to high population growth rates.
- The low status of women in Nebbi, Kaberamaido and Sebei encourages women to give birth to interest their husbands.
- Traditional beliefs encourage population growth.
- Improved nutrition and increased food production due to improved farming techniques in Masaka, Mbarara, Mbale have led to rise in life expectancy from 38 to 48 years and rapid population growth rates. Rural population have a lot of food and accommodation is not a problem encouraging big families.
- Political instability in Somalia, Rwanda, DRC and South Sudan have led to influx of foreigners in form of refugees in Kisoro, Kabale, Masaka, Gulu, Moyo, Arua and Kampala thus leading to a rapid population growth in the recipient areas.
- Imbalance of the sex ratio in that there are more sexually active women than men enabling men to marry more than one woman in Kabale, Kampala, Mbarara leading to more children.

Candidates should explain the effects of rapid population growth by giving specific examples in Uganda

Negative effects

- Problems arising from rapid population growth include unemployment and under employment particularly in Kampala, Masaka, Entebbe and others. There are few jobs than the available

population thus resulting into decline of standards of living due to failure to secure basic needs. It has escalated crime incidences as a way of survival.

- Rapid population growth rates has resulted into little land being available per person in areas like Mbale, Kisoro, Kamuli, Kabale and others. This has resulted in land fragmentation and over use of land without any resting period leading to soil erosion, deterioration and reduced productivity.
- Rapid population growth rates created rapid economic dependence burdens on the working population in Kisoro, Kampala and mbale thereby limiting saving, which would be used for development.
- Limited access to social services such as education and health facilities in urban areas like Kampala, Mbale and Kigezi.
- Encroachment of people to forests and wildlife places Like Mabira and National parks reducing tourist attraction sites and income.
- Rural- urban migration and its negative effects such as poor hygiene and high crime rates in Kampala, Mbale and others.
- High rate disease spreading among the population such as STI in youths of Kampala, Mbarara, and Iganga.
- Increased rate of population growth has led to increased number of street children in urban areas such as Kampala, Jinja, Mbale and Mbarara.

Positive effects

- **Increase in the market size** for agricultural (food) and industrial products such as Sodas, and beauty products in Kampala, Kisoro, Jinja and so on
- High population leads to cheap skilled and unskilled labour leading to low costs of production farms and industries in Kampala, Kabale, Masaka and so on.
- Increased government revenue from taxes from a large number of productive people.
- High population leads to provision of social infrastructure such as education facilities, roads and health facilities in Kampala, Mbarara, Mbale and so on.
- Rapid population growth leads to rapid urbanization in the country for example growth and expansion of Kampala, Jinja, Gulu etc.
- High population growth rate leads to innovation like introduction of nontraditional crops such as vanilla in Mukono.
- The small section of foreigners with enough capital encourages capital-inflow in the economy. Such capital is used to set up investments which are used to generate government tax revenue.
- The big population size is easily mobilized in war times to protect the country from external invasion.
- **It encourages geographical mobility of labour.** This is because the young people available for work are willing to work-anywhere in the country and to accept new assignments which they may be given at any time.
- High population growth rates have led to development of small scale industries in Kampala, Mable, Masaka, Mbarara and so on.

3. Account for the variation in population in Uganda (25marks)

Candidates are expected to define population distribution. Identify areas with low, moderate and high population density. Draw a sketch map of Uganda showing the distribution of population density.

Population distribution is defined as the way in which people are spread in a given area over a period of time. Population distribution in Uganda is based on the population densities.

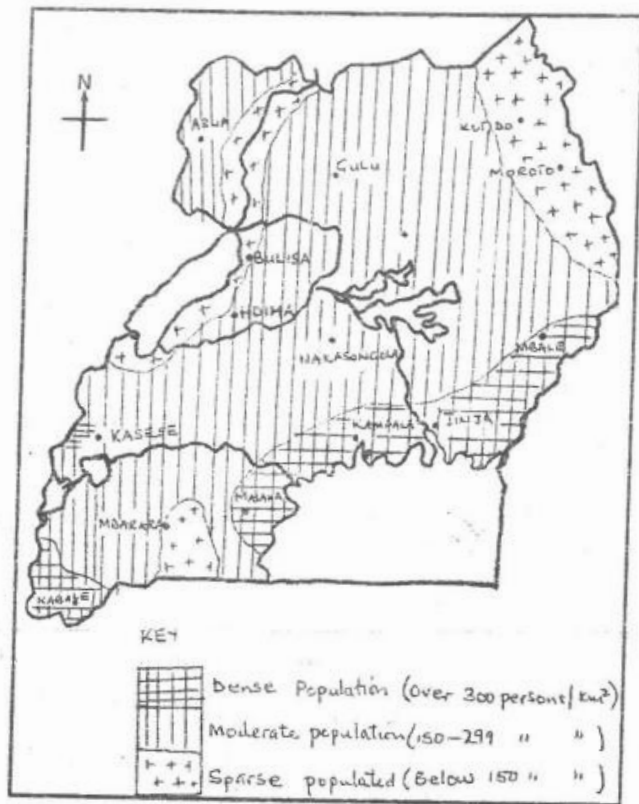
Area of High population densities include Kampala, Masaka, Kabale, Kisoro, Mbale, Mpigi, Jinja, Gulu, Kamuli and Tororo. While

Areas of moderate population include Gulu, Arua, Nakasongola, Luwero, Hoima, Kasese, Bugiri etc.

Areas of sparse population include Karamoja, Kotido, Moroto, Bulisa, Moyo, Ankole – Masaka corridor

Candidates are expected to draw a map showing population distribution

A SKETCH MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING POPULATION DISTRIBUTION



Candidates should clearly explain and illustrate the reasons/factors for variation in population distribution in Uganda

- Climatic factors. Areas with high rainfall amounts which are well distributed attract a dense population like Mt. Elgon slopes of Bududa, Budadiri; Kigezi highlands, shores of Lake Victoria e.g. Mukono, Kampala, Wakiso whereas areas with low and unreliable rainfall have sparse population for example North-Eastern Uganda like Moroto, Kotido, etc.
- Soils: Areas with fertile soils tend to attract a dense population like volcanic soils of Mt. Elgon, and places like Kigezi, Kisoro and the shores of L. Victoria like Mukono with Alluvial soils. On the contrary poor quality soils for example in Kitgum, Kotido in Northern Uganda support low population densities.
- Drainage; areas which are well drained tend to attract a dense population like parts of Buganda region e.g. Mukono and Wakiso; Mbale whereas areas which are poorly drained have sparse population like the shores of L. Kyoga.
- Presence of vectors in an area like tsetse flies in Parts of Busoga, Gulu, Moyo lead to sparse population.
- Relief: Areas with relatively flat relief tend to attract a dense population like most parts of Buganda e.g. Mukono and Wakiso whereas areas with steep relief have a sparse population like the steep slopes of Mt. Rwenzori. Also areas of monotonously flat relief such as Buliisa, Muhokya/parts of Kasere are sparsely populated because they are hot and prone to floods.
- Altitude:- population tends to concentrate in areas of low altitude hence have a dense population like most parts of Buganda e.g. Mukono and Wakiso whereas areas of high/very high altitude limit population distribution because of extreme temperature e.g. tops of Mt. Rwenzori.
- Vegetation:- areas of thick vegetation cover such as Budongo forest in Masindi are sparsely populated because such forests limit transport and communication whereas areas with relatively thin vegetation like Buganda region are distinctly populated due to easy accessibility.
- Government policy such as preventing settlement in game parks and forest reserves limits population settlement.
- The availability of economic activities such as industries, mining, Plantation/agriculture, fishing attract people in an area such as Kampala and Mbale. On the contrary lack of economic activities in rural areas lead to sparse population.
- Areas with developed transport and communication network such as Kampala, Jinja, Mbarara, Tororo are densely populated because they are easily accessible and enhance trade and commerce. Otherwise areas with poor communication network like North-Eastern Uganda are sparsely populated.
- Political stability:- Politically stable areas such as Kabale, Kampala, Mbale are densely populated because people are given time to carry out their economic activities while politically unstable areas are sparsely populated because people flee for their lives.
- Cultural factors are also responsible for the variation in population densities. For instance Kotido, Kaabang are sparsely populated because the pastoral economy of cattle keeping demands large areas of land. On the contrary certain tribes like the Bagisu, Bakiga, Basoga and Baganda are social and tend to produce a lot and are densely populated.

- Presence of social service like schools and health centres in Kampala, Wakiso attract high population while areas with limited social services such Kaabong are sparsely populated.
- Historical factors such as tribal wars like between Buganda and Bunyolo lead to sparse population in Kibale
- Ancient Kingdoms such as Buganda are densely populated due to security.
- Rural urban migration increases the population in cities while that of rural areas decrease.

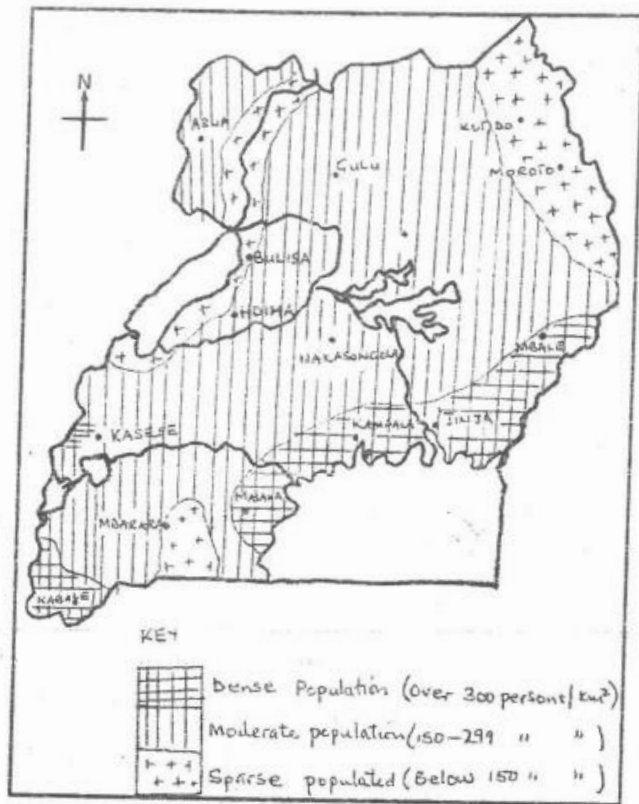
4. To what extent have physical factor influenced population distribution in Uganda

Candidates are expected to come up with a definition of population distribution as the spreading of population over space and time.

Candidates should come up with sketch map of Uganda showing population distributio. The map must have place names. Terms used to describe population distribution may include

- (i) High/dense
- (ii) Moderate/medium
- (iii) Sparse/low

A SKETCH MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING POPULATION DISTRIBUTION



Candidates should clearly explain and illustrate the physical factors for variation in population distribution in Uganda

- Climate
- Soil
- Drainage
- Relief
- Altitude
- Vegetation
- Biotic factors such as vector/tsetse flies

Candidates should bring about other factors that influence population distribution

- Government policy
- Availability of economic activities
- Availability of transport and communication facilities
- Political stability
- Improved social service
- Cultural factors
- Historic factors such as tribal wars, security in kingdom.
- Rural urban migration

The factors are described as in question 3.

Thanks

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